


Fruit Review, 2004


By James R. Collom

Fruit trees were affected negatively by wetter than normal weather in 2004. Wetter than normal weather made spraying for insects and disease difficult.

The Commonwealth's six major fruit crops are comprised of apples, peaches, pears, sweet cherries, tart cherries and grapes. These crops produced a total utilized weight of 628.8 million pounds, down 5.2 percent from 2003.





★ Apples: The 2004 commercial apple crop, utilized production, in Pennsylvania totaled 400 million pounds, down 9.5 percent from the 442 million pounds utilized in 2003. The crop was valued at 40.353 million dollars, down 11 percent from the 2002 value. Pennsylvania ranked 4th nationally in utilized apple production.



★ **Grapes:** Pennsylvania's 2004 grape crop, utilized production, was 86,800 tons, up 28 percent from 2003. The price per ton averaged 251 dollars, up 10 dollars from last year. The total value of utilized production was 21.8 million dollars, up 33 percent from the previous year. The Commonwealth's utilized grape production ranked 4th nationally.




◆ **Pears:** The utilized production of pears in Pennsylvania totaled 4,400 tons, down 10 percent from 2003. The utilized crop was valued at 2.5 million dollars. The Commonwealth ranked 5th nationally in utilized pear production.




◆ **Peaches:** Utilized peach production in Pennsylvania totaled 22,700 tons in 2004, down 36 percent from 2003. The season-average price of \$710 per ton was up \$51 from 2003. The total value of utilized production was 16.1 million dollars. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked 5th in utilized peach production.




★ Tart Cherries: Utilized tart cherry production in Pennsylvania totaled 3.0 million pounds, down 900,000 pounds from last year's crop. The season average price was 0.353 dollars per pound, compared with 0.434 dollars per pound in 2003. The total value of utilized production was 1.1 million dollars. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranked 7th in utilized production of tart cherries.



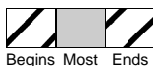

★ Sweet Cherries: Utilized production of Pennsylvania's sweet cherries in 2004 totaled 350 tons, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average price per ton increased to 2,980 dollars in 2004. The Commonwealth's crop for 2004 was valued at 1.04 million dollars. Sweet cherry utilized production from Pennsylvania ranked 9th nationally.

Usual Dates of Full Bloom, Harvest and Marketing for Principal Pennsylvania Fruit Crops

| Crop | April | | | | May | | | | June | | | | July | | | | August | | | | September | | | | October | | | | November | | | | Marketing | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|----|----|----|-----|----|---|----|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|--------|----|---|----|-----------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|----------|----|---|----|-----------|----|----|----|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | Most Active | Ends | | |
| Apples | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sept 10 Oct 25 | Nov 5 | |
| Peaches | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Aug 10 Sept 25 | Oct 1 |
| Cherries-Sweet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jun 20 July 8 | July 10 |
| Cherries-Tart | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | July 5 July 25 | Aug 1 |
| Pears | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Aug 15 Sept 30 | Oct 31 |
| Grapes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sept 25 Oct 25 | Nov 1 |

Key:

Full Bloom



Harvesting